



Congressman Mark Kirk's

10th District News



Tenth Congressional District

June 2007

Action Needed to Lower Gas Prices

Key bill to specifically help Chicagoland

With Chicagoland commuters facing the highest prices in America, Congress should take action now. One reason prices are highest here: "boutique fuel" regulations that have created regional fuel monopolies.

"Congress should act now to end these regional fuel monopolies," said Congressman Kirk. "We should restore full national price competition to gasoline markets to lower prices."

Kirk outlined other action to lower prices, including:

- Increase the corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) stan-

"E85 and other American gas alternatives bolster the Midwest economy and reduce our dependence on Mideast oil."

Congressman Mark Kirk

- dard for all cars and trucks
- Extend federal tax credits for purchases of hybrid cars
- Expand the number of refineries, especially those serving the Midwest
- Continue the deployment of E85 and other American-made fuels



Congressman Kirk outlined an aggressive agenda to restore America's energy independence. The 2005 Energy Policy Act made a number of key reforms, but more action is required.

Representatives Kirk and Bean Host Bipartisan Meeting to Address Suburban Transportation Issues

Effort will address growing suburban traffic needs



Congressman Kirk and Congresswoman Bean hosted the first meeting of the Suburban Transportation Commission to discuss the transportation needs of suburban communities.

Representatives Mark Kirk and Melissa Bean, in cooperation with state and local leaders from Cook, Lake and McHenry counties, hosted the first meeting of the bipartisan Suburban Transportation Commission in April to discuss the transportation needs of suburban communities.

Two-thirds of Chicagoland residents now live in suburban Cook and the collar counties. Understanding that the suburbs are the new population center of the area, Congressman Kirk collaborated with Congresswoman Bean to create the Commission that heard testimony from Regional Transportation Author-

ity, Metra and Pace executives regarding the status of suburban transportation investment in light of the current transportation funding crisis.

Kirk and Bean both vote on federal appropriations to support transportation projects in Illinois. Last year, the federal government provided \$280 million to the CTA, \$172 million to Metra and \$48 million to Pace. The Federal Highway Administration also provided over \$1 billion for Illinois roads. Federal studies show the average suburban commuter in our area is delayed 58 hours more per year, with commuting times up 57 percent.

THE DISTRICT REVIEW

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE 10TH DISTRICT

PIONEER PRESS

Bill targets online predators

A newly introduced bill in the U.S. House of Representatives would limit the ability of pedophiles to communicate with children on Internet chat rooms in libraries and schools. U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-10th, has proposed the Deleting Online Predators Act of 2007, which is similar to a bill that passed the House overwhelmingly in 2006 but stalled in the Senate... "We estimate there are 50,000 sexual predators online in Illinois. This problem reflects a generational gap because these threats were not part of my parents' life or my generation," Kirk said. "This legislative act empowers parents to eliminate predators from a child's computer."

February 22, 2007

Lawmakers take action on O'Hare security risks

Hidden camera investigation prompts legislators to scrutinize security

(CBS) CHICAGO "Fly At Your Own Risk," a CBS 2 hidden camera investigation at O'Hare International Airport is prompting federal investigations and state homeland security to make changes... Illinois Congressman Mark Kirk is reacting to 2 Investigators' report that exposed a vulnerable entrance and missing airport badges.

"This is something that the Transportation Security agency and the entire federal government needs to fix today," Kirk said.

February 22, 2007

Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED June 10, 1847

Board's focus: Suburban transit

With two-thirds of the Chicago area's residents living in suburban Cook and the collar counties, there must be greater emphasis on providing new transportation services to those areas, members of the newly formed Suburban Transportation Commission agreed Tuesday. The region's transportation needs have for too long been Chicago-centered, and funding discussions have been dominated by the needs of the CTA, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) said.

April 11, 2007



Bipartisan Action Against Illegal Guns

Congressman Kirk, pictured alongside Washington Mayor Adrian Fenty and Palatine Mayor Rita Mullins, held a press conference to inaugurate the bipartisan Congressional Task Force Against Illegal Guns. He is joined in his efforts by police chiefs and mayors from around the country.

The NewsSun

Joint Navy-VA hospital gets \$99M budget nod

NORTH CHICAGO — Veterans and active duty military personnel in Lake County who rely on the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center for their health care may be heartened to hear that the new federal budget calls for \$125 million for military construction at Great Lakes Navy Base, including \$99 million for completion of a new joint Veterans/Navy hospital... Integration of VA and Navy health facilities began in 2003, when U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk won approval for the idea that he said will ensure the survival of veterans' health care in northern Illinois.

"I am very pleased the Navy and VA will invest heavily in Great Lakes, bringing hundreds of high-paying jobs to our communities," Kirk said. "Building the world's premier naval facility benefits our men and women in uniform and fosters economic growth and job creation in eastern Lake County."

February 8, 2007

Associated Press

Congressional panel hears testimony about Great Lakes pollution

CHICAGO — Congressional representatives and experts warned Monday that the world's largest surface freshwater system is under siege from a variety of threats and preservation efforts need more federal support. U.S. Reps. Mark Kirk, Judy Biggert, Dan Lipinski and Peter Roskam of Illinois listened to testimony given by seven experts while critters in the Shedd Aquarium's invasive species exhibit lurked behind them... "I'm concerned that other communities around the Great Lakes have not made the investments" some in Illinois have, Kirk said before the hearing began. "With 24 billion gallons of sewage going into the Great Lakes every year, it's simply something that the Congress needs to get involved with."

March 5, 2007

A Model Congress



Congressman Kirk welcomes high school students participating in the First Annual 10th Congressional District Model Congress.

For a weekend in April, nearly 100 high school students converged on Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire to participate in the First Annual 10th Congressional District Model Congress. Students took on the roles of actual representatives and participated in congressional hearings, “mark up” legislative sessions and floor debate. With Earth Day on Sunday, students also considered environmentally-themed legislation. H.R. 1 established U.S. policy toward climate change, and H.R. 2 authorized the creation of the 10th Congressional District Student Conservation Corps. Both bills passed during the Model Congress session.

Congressman Kirk told participating students that it was refreshing to see young people so passionate about their government. He lead each session, working closely with **Lauren Blake**, who who played the Majority Leader and **Will McGuaren**, who played the Minority Leader. Students questioned witnesses from the Sierra Club, Chicago Climate Exchange and the Waukegan Citizens Advisory Group before offering amendments and approved legislation.

The congressman will take the work of the Model Congress on the 10th Congressional District Conservation Corps to introduce actual legislation in Congress.

PIONEER PRESS

Students debate climate

U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-10th, of Highland Park, hosted the event on Earth Day, April 22, as a way of introducing students to the political process and giving them an opportunity to debate issues of national importance.

“The purpose was to educate the kids in as realistic a setting as possible to engage in important issues using the real House Rules, with a member of Congress and real congressional staff, to resolve their differences and build bi-partisan coalitions the way it actually happens in Washington,” he said.
May 3, 2007

SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS

(January 1, 2001 – May 15, 2007)

29

Town Hall meetings

57

Weekends Served on Navy Reserve Duty

72

Bills and Amendments Introduced

825

Co-sponsored Pieces of Legislation

3,724

Number of Votes

10,324

U.S. Capitol, White House and Bureau of Engraving Tour Requests

More Trains = More Time at Home



Congressman Kirk joined Metra’s Executive Director Phil Pagano to announce new express trains for the North Central Line serving the 10th district communities of Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Vernon Hills, Mundelein and Libertyville. The express service expansion will save commuters approximately 80 hours a year of traveling to and from work, thus allowing them to spend more time at home. Federal funding for the North Central Line is one of Congressman Kirk’s proudest accomplishments in Congress and the project will make a real difference in improving the quality of life for Northern Illinois families.

The NewsSun

Navy will reopen gate

NORTH CHICAGO — One week after city officials reacted with alarm to word that Gate 4 at Naval Station Great Lakes would remain closed, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park, announced Monday that he has received new assurances from Washington about the gate being reopened.

Kirk said he “raised some Cain” after hearing about the situation, reminding both the Navy and the Department of Defense about past agreements to open the gate for access to and from North Chicago’s Sheridan Road commercial district.

April 24, 2007



I would like to hear your views on key issues we face in Congress.

To help me represent you better, please fill out the questionnaire below:

1. Recently, a group of senators and President Bush outlined an immigration bill that would create two new visas: a "Z" visa for 12 million illegal immigrants to remain in the United States and a "Y" visa to admit 400,000 additional temporary workers. The bill would also authorize 550,000 annual family immigrant visas and permit 380,000 additional immigrant visas for "more qualified" immigrants. In return for these changes, the border patrol would hire 6,000 new agents and the federal government would complete 370 miles of fencing along Mexico's border. Should Congress support this bill?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
 - c. Do not know.
2. Regarding climate change, the Congress may consider legislation to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by Americans. What policies should the Congress mandate? *(Please indicate all options you agree with.)*
 - a. Impose federal carbon taxes, including taxes on each gallon of gasoline, coal-burning electricity generators and new federal regulations to close down large carbon emitters.
 - b. Set overall limits on carbon emissions, with flexible "cap-and-trade" mechanisms to regulate relations between polluters and cleaner entities.
 - c. Renegotiate international agreements to require similar reductions by China and India to prevent industries from leaving the United States.
 - d. Require further research to validate the conclusion that global warming is happening and that government action can stop it.
 - e. None.
 - f. Do not know.
3. The Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) was enacted in 1969 to ensure that Americans with incomes over \$200,000 could not avoid paying taxes. Because the trigger for this tax has not been updated, 20% of American taxpayers will begin paying additional taxes under the AMT. Do you believe this tax should be:
 - a. Eliminated
 - b. Applied only to the top 1%
 - c. Increased for higher incomes and eliminated for middle class incomes
 - d. Left as it is
 - e. Do not know
4. Regarding Iraq, three major positions have substantial support. Which statement most closely reflects your views?
 - a. Congress should cut funding for the troops to mandate their withdrawal from Iraq by March 2008.
 - b. Congress should cut funding for the Iraqi government unless it meets benchmarks for political reconciliation, oil revenue sharing and the demobilization of militias by August 2007.
 - c. Congress should support funding for the surge in Iraq and General Patreus's strategy to defeat insurgents.
 - d. Do not know.
5. Iran's President pledged to "wipe Israel off the map." According to the United Nation's International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran mastered the technology to enrich weapons-grade uranium. In response, the United States should: *(Please indicate all options you agree with.)*
 - a. Integrate Israel into the U.S. National Missile Defense Program.
 - b. Quarantine gasoline sales to Iran.
 - c. Support Israeli military action against Iran.
 - d. Support measures only approved by the U.N.
 - e. Accept the emergence of Iran armed with nuclear weapons.
 - f. Do not know.
6. This summer, Congress will consider reforms to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. With regard to this law, do you support:
 - a. Continuing NCLB, especially the right for parents to know how public schools perform.
 - b. Reforming NCLB to preserve its basic parts but reforming problems in assessing special education, non-english speaking students and very small sub-group children.
 - c. Repeal NCLB.
 - d. Do not know.
7. Do you support legislation providing federal funds to help local law enforcement investigate and prosecute hate crimes?
 - a. Yes.
 - b. No.
 - c. Do not know.
8. Regarding the genocide in Darfur, do you believe the United States should: *(Please indicate all options that you agree with.)*
 - a. Commit U.S. combat troops to end the genocide .
 - b. Support other countries' troops in Darfur, even if ineffective.
 - c. Arm rebel groups to defend their villages from government attacks.
 - d. Rely on U.N. sanctions only.
 - e. Do not know.
9. The United States currently runs a large trade deficit with China. Do you believe that the United States should: *(Please indicate all options that you agree with.)*
 - a. Increase tariffs on Chinese products until China floats its currency.
 - b. Help small and medium sized businesses export more to China.
 - c. File more trade suits against China within the World Trade Organization.
 - d. Let business trade.
 - e. Do not know.
10. The price of gas is going up. Do you believe the federal government should: *(Please indicate all options that you agree with.)*
 - a. Tax the windfall profits of big oil companies.
 - b. Prosecute oil companies and gas stations for price gouging.
 - c. Increase federal research for alternative fuels and fuel cells.
 - d. Simplify blended gasoline regulations to lower prices through market forces.
 - e. Do nothing/do not know.

TO MAIL BACK:

1. Please cut page along dotted line (left).
2. Fold top edge down to arrow.
3. Fold bottom third up to meet top fold.
4. Place tape at top opening to seal.
Be sure mailing address is showing.

Traveling Office Hours

Congressman Kirk hosted traveling office hours at the Linden True Value hardware store in Wilmette on a Saturday in March. **Jim Barkemeyer** and his family, who own the store, made it available for the event. During the visit, residents of Wilmette, Kenilworth and Winnetka asked questions ranging from Great Lakes cleanup efforts to ethanol to Iran. One of the great things about traveling office hours is learning about local community groups and how they are helping in the 10th Congressional District.

Town Hall Meetings and Traveling Office Hours

One of the best ways to discuss current events and ask Congressman Kirk questions is to attend one of the many Town Hall meetings and traveling office hours that are held throughout the district. You can receive Town Hall notification e-mails by signing up for our e-newsletter at www.house.gov/kirk.



Congressman Kirk hosted a Town Hall meeting and answered questions at the Linden True Value in Wilmette.



Congressman Kirk at a Town Hall meeting on Food Allergies with Denise Bunning at Everett Elementary in Lake Forest.

Town Hall Meeting – Kids and Food Allergies

Congressman Kirk joined a group of concerned parents, teachers and health care providers to discuss a growing danger to children: food allergies. The number of children with food allergies is rising — emergency room visits to Children’s Memorial Hospital alone grew by over 30 percent last year. Many parents may have a child with allergies or know one in school. Simple things like the residue from a peanut butter sandwich can trigger a life threatening shock. The congressman told the Town Hall that he supported doubling of biomedical research at the National Institutes for Health. While funding to fight food allergy research has gone up in the last five years from \$2 million per year to \$8 million, the growing number of parents and children who deal with this shows there is more that needs to be done.

Write your return address here:

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Congressman Mark Kirk
707 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 350
Northbrook, Illinois 60062-4010

OFFICIAL BUSINESS:
Congressional Survey Enclosed

Building a Memorial for Disabled Veterans

Pictured right at the National Press Club with acclaimed actor and Highland Park native Gary Sinise, Congressman Kirk is joined by Congressman Dennis Moore from Kansas to help kick-off an effort supporting the establishment of a national memorial for permanently disabled veterans. Sinise is the national spokesman for the foundation working to build The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in a place of honor on the National Mall to recognize the service and sacrifice of all disabled veterans. The Kirk-Moore legislation to mint a commemorative coin to help raise funds to build the Memorial, passed the House of Representative with overwhelming support.



Congressman Kirk joined by U.S. Rep. Dennis Moore and Gary Sinise (who grew up in Highland Park) to back legislation for a disabled American veterans memorial in Washington, D.C.

Mount Prospect Town Hall Meeting



Congressman Kirk answers questions about measures needed to ban sewage dumping in Lake Michigan.

Nearly 100 people from northwest Cook County joined Congressman Kirk for a town hall meeting at the Mount Prospect Public Library. For more

than two hours, the congressman answered questions and provided updates regarding several top legislative priorities for the 10th Congressional District. In addition to discussing topics like protecting Lake Michigan, reducing traffic congestion and providing more options to help families pay for college, the congressman honored three veterans and their families with medals for service in World War I and II. **William D. Ishwerwood** received the Good Conduct Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal for service in World War II. **Vincent Petrovski** received the World War I Victory Medal and **James O'Malley** received the Philippines Liberation Medal for service during the Allied invasion of the Philippines.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

District Office

707 Skokie Boulevard
Suite 350
Northbrook, IL 60062
(847) 940-0202
(847) 940-7143 fax

Washington, D.C.

1030 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4835
(202) 225-0837 fax

To contact us, please visit our Web site at www.house.gov/kirk

Please call our Northbrook office for help with federal issues like Medicare, Social Security, veterans' benefits or passports.



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Official Business

Congressman Mark Steven Kirk

707 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 350
Northbrook, IL 60062
(847) 940-0202

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Kirk".

M.C.
Presorted Standard
ECRWSS